



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

February 26, 2008

H.R. 5159 **Capitol Visitor Center Act of 2008**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Administration on February 12, 2008

SUMMARY

H.R. 5159 would authorize the appropriation of whatever amounts are necessary to operate the new capitol visitor center (CVC) at the U.S. Capitol building. Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing the legislation would cost \$166 million over the 2009-2013 period. Enacting the bill would have no impact on revenues and no net impact on direct spending.

H.R. 5159 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 5159 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 800 (general government).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Spending Under Current Law for CVC and Capitol Guide Operations						
Budget Authority ^a	14	0	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	9	5	0	0	0	0
Proposed Changes						
Estimated Authorization Level	0	31	34	35	36	37
Estimated Outlays	0	25	33	35	36	37
CVC Spending Under H.R. 5159						
Estimated Authorization Level/Budget Authority	14	31	34	35	36	37
Estimated Outlays	9	30	33	35	36	37

a. The 2008 level is the amount appropriated for that year for the CVC operations and the Capitol Guide Service.

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

H.R. 5159 would establish an operating structure for the new CVC that would include moving the Capitol Guide Service into the center's operations and creating within it an office of accessibility from an existing part of the guide operation. The bill would authorize the CVC to operate restaurants and gift shops through revolving funds and would allow the center to retain any profits from those operations for the CVC expenses. Finally, the bill would authorize the appropriation of whatever amounts are necessary for those purposes.

Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that operating the CVC as required by the bill would cost \$25 million from appropriations for 2009, the center's first full year of operation. We expect that costs to maintain the center and employ about 275 guides and other workers would rise to \$37 million annually by 2013. CBO estimates that total costs over the 2009-2013 period would be \$166 million.

Beginning in 2009, the CVC also would establish appropriate revolving funds to operate commercial activities, such as gift shops and restaurants, under the authority provided in the bill. All income earned from such commercial operations would be deposited in the funds and would be available without further appropriation for those operations. Income to and spending from those revolving funds would increase offsetting receipts and direct spending, but CBO estimates that such transactions would offset each other in most years.

This estimate is based on information provided by the Architect of the Capitol (which would manage the CVC) and the Capitol Guide Service.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 5159 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

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